

REMARKS

Claims 1, 4-5, 8-9 and 13 have been canceled.

Claims 2-3, 6-7 and 10-12 have been amended.

Claims 14-18 have been added.

Claims 2-3, 6-7, 10-12 and 14-18 are pending.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Office Action indicated that Claims 10 and 11 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant has rewritten Claims 10 and 11 in independent form and they are thus now allowable. Claims 2-3, 6-7 and 12 have been amended to depend from allowable Claim 10 and are also thus allowable. Claims 14-18 have been added to depends from Claim 11 and are also thus allowable.

Claim Objections

Claims 9 and 13 were objected to due to certain informalities. Applicant submits that the rejection is now moot because Applicant has canceled Claims 9 and 13.

Claim Rejections

35 U.S.C. §102

The Office Action rejected Claims 1, 3, 6-7 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Webster. Applicant submits that the rejection is moot because Applicant has canceled Claims 1 and 13. In addition, Claims 3, and 6-7 now depend from allowable Claim 10.

The Office Action rejected Claim 8 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Guenther. Applicant submits that the rejection is moot because Applicant has canceled Claim 8.

35 U.S.C. §103

The Office Action rejected Claim 2 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Webster as applied to Claim 1 above and in further view of Weckter. Applicant submits that the rejection is now moot because Claim 2 now depends from allowable Claim 10.

The Office Action rejected Claim 4 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Webster as applied to Claim 1 above and in further view of Depoy. Applicant submits that the rejection is now moot because Claim 4 has been canceled.

The Office Action rejected Claim 5 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Webster as applied to Claim 1 above and in further view of Guenther. Applicant submits that the rejection is now moot because Claim 5 has been canceled.

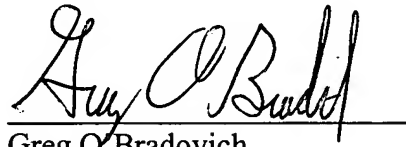
The Office Action rejected Claims 9 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Webster in view of Chan, Depoy, and Guenther. Applicant submits that the rejection is now moot because Claim 9 has been canceled and Claim 12 now depends from allowable Claim 10.

New Claims

New Claims 14-18 all depend from allowable Claim 11 and are thus deemed allowable.

If Examiner has any questions regarding this document, Applicant asks that Examiner contact the undersigned immediately by telephone.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Greg O'Bradovich", is written over a horizontal line.

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